

## Verification of Translation

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1. I am familiar with the Japanese and English languages.
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Executed at Otsu-shi, Shiga-ken this 17th day of March, 2000.

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**Date of Application : June 27, 1997**

**Application Number : Patent Application No. HEI 9-172364**

**Applicant(s) : Toray Industries, Inc.**

**Commissioner,  
Patent Office**

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[Title of the document] REQUEST FOR GRANT OF PATENT

[Pocket number] 32N00470-A

[Date submitted] June 27, 1997

[Submitted to] The Director General of the Patent Office

[International patent classification] G09F 9/313

[Title of the invention] A method for producing a plasma display panel

[Number of claims] 9

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[Payment of fee]

[Payment method] Prepayment

[Prepayment book number] 005186

[Amount of payment] 21,000 yen

[List of documents submitted]

[Title of the document] Specification 1

[Title of the document] Drawing 1

[Title of the document] Abstract 1

[Necessity of proof] Required

[Title of the document] Specification

[Title of the invention] A method for producing a plasma display panel

[Claims]

[Claim 1] A method for producing a plasma display panel, in which a glass substrate is coated with three fluorescent pastes respectively containing a fluorescent powder emitting light of red, green or blue discharged from a paste applicator with outlet holes, in stripes on the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions formed on the substrate, and the pastes are burned to form a fluorescent face, characterized in that the fluorescent pastes are discharged from the outlet holes at the coating start position in the direction parallel to the partitions and that the discharge of the fluorescent pastes from the outlet holes is terminated at the end position of the coating continued in the direction parallel to the partitions.

[Claim 2] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to claim 1, wherein till immediately before the fluorescent pastes are discharged from the outlet holes and/or when the discharge of the fluorescent pastes is terminated, the paste applicator is internally kept at a negative pressure.

[Claim 3] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to claim 1 or 2, wherein as soon as the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate begins to be driven for traveling in parallel to the partitions formed on the substrate or while

it travels, the fluorescent pastes are discharged, and/or the discharge is terminated during traveling or simultaneously with the completion of traveling.

[Claim 4] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to any one of claims 1 through 3, which contains an action that the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate is moved perpendicularly to the plane direction.

[Claim 5] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to claim 4, which includes an action that at a position before start of coating in the direction parallel to the partitions, the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate is moved perpendicularly to keep the distance between the tops of the partitions and the tips of the outlet holes of the paste applicator in a state ready for coating and that at a position after the end of the coating continued in the direction parallel to the partitions, it is moved again perpendicularly to widen the distance from the state ready for coating.

[Claim 6] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein the distance in the state ready for coating is 0.01 to 2 mm.

[Claim 7] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein paste applicators respectively with two or more outlet holes per color are used for coating with the fluorescent pastes.

[Claim 8] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to any one of claims 1 through 7, wherein the fluorescent pastes used have a viscosity of 0.1 to 50 Pa·s.

[Claim 9] A method for producing a plasma display panel, according to any one of claims 1 through 8, wherein the fluorescent powders used have a cumulative average grain size of 0.5 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$  and a specific surface area of 0.1 to 5  $\text{m}^2/\text{cc}$ .

[Detailed description of the invention]

[Technical field of the invention]

The present invention relates to a new method for producing a plasma display panel. The plasma display panel of the present invention can be used for wall mounted television sets and information displays.

[Prior arts]

The conventionally known methods for producing plasma display panels include screen printing. Especially for forming fluorescent materials of plasma displays, screen printing has been frequently used.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 6-5205 proposes to use sand blasting after screen printing, and Japanese Patent Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 5-144375 proposes to effect screen printing after coating with a crosslinking agent. Both the techniques use screen printing.

However, screen printing does not allow a highly precise pattern to be formed disadvantageously since the screen is

deformed by repeated printing, and also in view of control such as washing of the screen, screen printing cannot be said to be suitable for mass production.

The use of lithography is also practiced as a method for obtaining a highly precise pattern. However, in this case, since the respective fluorescent material layers of red, green and blue must be formed, the respective steps of coating, exposure, development, drying, etc. must be repeated three times for the colors, and after full face coating with the respective colors and exposure, unnecessary portions must be removed by development, to wastefully consume the fluorescent powders. If they are recovered for reproduction, the cost is raised. Furthermore, there is also a problem that since the full face is coated with the respective colors, the overlying colors can remain after development, to cause color mixing.

It is also proposed to eject a fluorescent paste from the tip of an ink jet nozzle, for forming a fluorescent material layer. However, in the case of ink jet, since the fluorescent paste is ejected by a piezoelectric device, etc., the viscosity of the fluorescent paste must be kept at less than about 0.02 Pa·s, and so the amount of the fluorescent powder in the paste cannot be increased. Therefore, the thickness of the formed fluorescent material layer is too thin disadvantageously. There is another problem that since the ink jet nozzle must be small in diameter, it is clogged with the fluorescent powder.



[Problems to be solved by the invention]

The object of the present invention is to provide a method for producing a plasma display panel free from the above disadvantages, particularly a method for producing a plasma display panel which allows fluorescent material layers to be formed simply at high accuracy.

[Means for solving the problems]

The object of the present invention can be achieved by a method for producing a plasma display panel, in which a glass substrate is coated with three fluorescent pastes respectively containing a fluorescent powder emitting light of red, green or blue discharged from a paste applicator with outlet holes, in stripes on the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions formed on the substrate, and the pastes are burned to form a fluorescent face, characterized in that the fluorescent pastes are discharged from the outlet holes at the coating start position in the direction parallel to the partitions and that the discharge of the fluorescent pastes from the outlet holes is terminated at the end position of the coating continued in the direction parallel to the partitions.

[Embodiments of the invention]

The present invention relates to a method for coating a glass substrate 2 having electrodes 1 and partitions 3 formed on it as shown in Fig. 1, partially with fluorescent pastes, particularly a method for forming a red fluorescent material

layer 4, a blue fluorescent material layer 5 and a green fluorescent material layer 6 as shown in Fig. 2, by coating the substrate with fluorescent materials emitting light of any of three principle colors, red, blue and green in stripes.

Since three stripes of red (R), blue (B) and green (G) form one pixel line, they must be formed in repetition of RGB or RBG.

For forming the respective fluorescent material layers, at first the three paste applicators respectively with one outlet hole provided for discharging any of the three colors of R, G and B respectively are driven to travel in parallel to the partitions and/or the glass substrate is driven to travel, while the fluorescent pastes of the respective colors are discharged onto the predetermined spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions, for coating. As a more efficient method, it is preferable that a paste applicator with two or more outlet holes at predetermined coating intervals for one color (the center distance between the respectively adjacent outlet holes for each color is three times the pitch of the partitions) is used for simultaneously discharging from the plurality of outlet holes for coating of each color. As a further more efficient method, it is also preferable to use two or more paste applicators for each color for coating.

For coating the spaces between adjacent partitions with a fluorescent paste, the fluorescent paste is discharged from the outlet holes at the coating start position in the direction

parallel to the partitions, and at the end position of the coating continued in the direction parallel to the partitions, the discharge of the fluorescent paste from the outlet holes is terminated. If this method is adopted, the fluorescent paste can be applied only to the spaces required to be coated with the fluorescent paste.

In this case, it is preferable that the paste applicator is internally kept at a negative pressure till immediately before the fluorescent paste is discharged from the outlet holes and/or when the discharge is terminated. If the viscosity of the fluorescent paste is low, for example, 8 Pa·s or less when the outlet holes of the paste applicator have an L/D ratio of less than 20 (where L is the length of the outlet holes and D is the diameter of the outlet holes), the paste drips from the outlet holes even if no discharge pressure is applied. If a negative pressure is applied to the paste, the dripping can be prevented to enhance the paste coating accuracy. It is preferable that the negative pressure is -0.1 to -20 kPa.

It is also preferable that a fluorescent paste is discharged as soon as the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate begins to be driven for traveling in parallel to the partitions formed on the glass substrate or while it travels, and/or the discharge is terminated during traveling or simultaneously with the completion of traveling. It is also preferable that the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate

is moved perpendicularly to the plane direction. In this case, it is more preferable that it is moved perpendicularly at a position immediately before start of coating in the direction parallel to the partitions, to keep the distance between the tops of the partitions and the tips of the outlet holes of the paste applicator in a state ready for coating, and that it is moved again perpendicularly at a position after the end of the coating continued in the direction parallel to the partitions, to widen the distance more than the state ready for coating. If this method is adopted, the overflow, etc. of the fluorescent paste from the partitions due to excessive coating at the coating start position and the coating end position in the direction parallel to the partitions, further improving the coating accuracy.

It is preferable that the length (L) and the diameter (D) of the outlet holes of the paste applicator satisfy  $L/D = 0.1 \sim 600$ . If  $L/D$  is smaller than 0.1, the outlet holes are insufficient in strength and likely to be deformed, and the fluorescent pastes are discharged unstably. For example, if the fluorescent pastes used have a viscosity of 10 Pa·s or less, they naturally drip, making it difficult to control the coating. If  $L/D$  is larger than 600, the length is too large compared to the inner diameter of the outlet holes, making it necessary to discharge the fluorescent paste at a higher pressure. Furthermore, it is difficult to maintain, for example, wash the

outlet holes, posing a problem in practicality. A preferable range is  $L/D = 1 \sim 250$ .

The diameter (D) of the outlet holes must be decided with the pitch of partitions taken into account, and must be larger than the grain size of the fluorescent powders. It is preferable that the diameter is 80 to 400  $\mu\text{m}$  for stable discharge of fluorescent pastes, considering the grain size distributions of the fluorescent powders and some cohesion.

It is preferable that the outlet holes used in the present invention are nozzles or needles, since the paste applicator is less likely to be contaminated.

For coating, it is preferable that the distance between the tops of the partitions and the tips of the outlet holes of the paste applicator is kept at 0.01 to 2 mm, when the fluorescent paste is discharged at a constant flow rate for coating the spaces between adjacent partitions while the paste applicator is driven to travel at a constant speed and/or the glass substrate is driven to travel. A more preferable distance range is 0.03 to 1 mm. Coating with this distance kept allows the fluorescent paste to be poured onto the spaces between adjacent partitions while its contact with the tops of the partitions is avoided.

It is preferable that the fluorescent pastes used in the present invention have a viscosity of 0.1 to 50 Pa·s. A more preferable range is 1 to 30 Pa·s.

For stable discharge of the fluorescent paste for coating on the spaces between adjacent partitions, it is preferable that the discharge pressure is 50 to 1000 kPa as gauge pressure.

It is preferable that the fluorescent paste consists of a fluorescent powder, and the ingredients to be evaporated or decomposed to be removed by the drying and burning after coating. In this case, a fluorescent material layer composed of a fluorescent material only can be formed after burning. The fluorescent paste can be, for example, a composition consisting of a fluorescent powder, organic dispersing agent, water soluble organic binder and water, or a composition consisting of a fluorescent powder, organic binder and organic solvent, or a composition with an organic dispersing agent added to said composition, etc.

If the composition is made photosensitive, patterning by photolithography can be applied. This is effective for removing the fluorescent materials formed on the tops of the partitions and other unnecessary portions than the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions. The coated substrate is exposed through a photomask, so that the pastes in the exposed portions may be made soluble or insoluble in the developer, and the unnecessary portions are removed in the development step, to form the fluorescent material layers of the respective colors.

The fluorescent powders used in the present invention are not especially limited. For example, those emitting light of red include  $Y_2O_3:Eu$ ,  $YVO_4:Eu$ ,  $(Y, Gd)BO_3:Eu$ ,  $Y_2O_3S:Eu$ ,  $g-Zn_3(PO_4)_2:Mn$ ,  $(ZnCd)S:Ag+In_2O_3$ , etc. Those emitting light of green include  $Zn_2GeO_2:Mn$ ,  $BaAl_{12}O_{19}:Mn$ ,  $Zn_2SiO_4:Mn$ ,  $LaPO_4:Tb$ ,  $ZnS:Cu,Al$ ,  $ZnS:Au,Cu,Al$ ,  $(ZnCd)S:Cu,Al$ ,  $Zn_2SiO_4:Mn,As$ ,  $Y_3Al_5O_{12}:Ce$ ,  $CeMgAl_{11}O_{19}:Tb$ ,  $Gd_2O_2S:Tb$ ,  $Y_3Al_5O_{12}:Tb$ ,  $ZnO:Zn$ , etc. Those emitting light of blue include  $Sr_5(PO_4)_3Cl:Eu$ ,  $BaMgAl_{14}O_{23}:Eu$ ,  $BaMgAl_{16}O_{27}:Eu$ ,  $BaMg_2Al_{14}O_{24}:Eu$ ,  $ZnS:Ag+red$  pigment,  $Y_2SiO_3:Ce$ , etc.

Furthermore, the present invention allows the use of rare earth element tantalate fluorescent materials in which at least one matrix forming rare earth element selected from yttrium (Y), gadolinium (Gd) and lutetium (Lu) is substituted by at least one element selected from a group consisting of thulium (Tm), terbium (Tb) and europium (Eu). A preferable rare earth element tantalate fluorescent material is europium activated yttrium tantalate represented by composition formula  $Y_{1-x}Eu_xTaO_4$  (where x is approximately 0.005 to 0.1). A preferable red fluorescent material is europium activated yttrium tantalate, and a preferable green fluorescent material is terbium activated yttrium tantalate represented by composition formula  $Y_{1-x}Tb_xTaO_4$  (where x is approximately 0.001 to 0.2). A preferable blue fluorescent material is thulium activated yttrium

tantalate represented by  $Y_{1-x}Tb_xTaO_4$  (where  $x$  is approximately 0.001 to 0.2).

Further preferable green fluorescent materials include a manganese activated zinc fluorescent material ( $Zn_2SiO_4:Mn$ ) with an average grain size of  $2\ \mu m$  to  $8\ \mu m$  activated by 0.2 wt% to less than 0.1 wt% of manganese based on the weight of zinc silicate ( $Zn_2SiO_4$ ) matrix, and a manganese activated zinc silicate fluorescent material represented by general formula  $(Zn_{1-x}Mn_x)O \cdot \alpha SiO_2$  (where  $0.01 \leq x \leq 0.2$  and  $0.5 < \alpha \leq 1.5$ ).

The grain size of the fluorescent powders used in the above is selected, considering the line width, inter-line space and thickness of the fluorescent material layer pattern to be prepared. It is preferable that the powders are 0.5 to  $15\ \mu m$  (especially 0.5 to  $6\ \mu m$ ) in cumulative average grain size and 0.1 to  $5\ m^2/g$  in specific surface area.. If the grain size and the specific surface area are in these ranges, the clogging of the outlet holes is unlikely to occur, and stable discharge can be effected, to provide a highly precise pattern. Furthermore, the fluorescent materials are higher in luminous efficiency and longer in life preferably. If the grain size is less than  $0.5\ \mu m$  or the specific surface area is more than  $5\ m^2/g$ , the powders are too fine, and are likely to cohere. In this case, in the patterning according to photolithography, light is scattered during exposure, and non-exposed portions are likely to be photoset. So, extra fluorescent materials are likely to remain



in the non-exposed portions at the time of development, not allowing a highly precise pattern to be obtained. Furthermore, the fluorescent materials decline in luminous efficiency and life. It is more preferable that the grain size is 1 to 6  $\mu\text{m}$  and that the specific surface area is 0.5 to 4  $\text{m}^2/\text{cc}$ .

As for the form of the fluorescent powders, polyhedral grains can be used, but it is preferable that the powders are not cohesive. It is more preferable that the powders are spherical grains since the clogging of the outlet holes is unlikely to occur, and since stable discharge can be effected and furthermore since the influence of scattering during exposure can be lessened in the case of patterning by photolithography. It is preferable that spherical grains account for 80% or more in the fluorescent powder in the number of grains. It is more preferable that spherical grains account for 90% or more. If spherical grains account for less than 80% in number, it is difficult to obtain a highly precise pattern, because of the influence of scattering by the fluorescent powder at the time of exposure to ultraviolet light. To measure the spherical grain percentage, the fluorescent powder is photographed at 300 times by an optical microscope, and the number of countable grains is counted, to calculate the rate of spherical grains as the spherical grain percentage.

The organic component used in the present invention contains an organic binder, solvent, and, as required, such

additives as a dispersing agent, plasticizer and leveling agent.

The organic binders which can be used here include, for example, (poly)vinyl butyral, (poly)vinyl acetate, (poly)vinyl alcohol, cellulose polymers (e.g., methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, methylhydroxyethyl cellulose), polyethylene, silicone polymers (e.g., (poly)methylsiloxane, (poly)methylphenylsiloxane), polystyrene, butadiene/styrene copolymer, (poly)vinylpyrrolidone, polyamides, high molecular polyesters, ethylene oxide-propylene oxide copolymer, polyacrylamide, and various acrylic polymers (e.g., sodium polyacrylate, (poly) lower alkylacrylates, (poly) lower alkylmethacrylates and various copolymers and multipolymers of lower alkylacrylates and methacrylates.

The plasticizers which can be used here include, for example, dibutyl phthalate, dioctyl phthalate, polyethylene glycol, glycerol, etc.

The solvents which can be used here include, for example, methyl cellosolve, ethyl cellosolve, butyl cellosolve, methyl ethyl ketone, dioxane, acetone, cyclohexanone, cyclopentanone, isobutyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, butylcarbitol acetate, dimethyl sulfoxide,  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone, bromobenzene, chlorobenzene, dibromobenzene, dichlorobenzene,

bromobenzoic acid, chlorobenzoic acid and organic solvent mixtures containing at least one or more of the foregoing.

The organic dispersing agents which can be used here include anionic and nonionic surfactants, etc.

In the present invention, when the patterning by photolithography is effected, it is possible to use photosensitive fluorescent pastes respectively with an organic component containing a photosensitive compound and a fluorescent powder as essential ingredients.

It is preferable that the organic component used in the photosensitive fluorescent pastes contains 10 wt% or more of a photosensitive compound. More preferable is 25 wt% or more. The organic component containing a photosensitive compound contains at least one photosensitive ingredient selected from photosensitive polymers, photosensitive monomers and photosensitive oligomers, and furthermore, as required, also such additives as photopolymerization initiator, sensitizer and ultraviolet light absorber.

It is preferable that the amount of the organic component containing a photosensitive compound used in the present invention is 15 to 60 wt%. If less than 15 wt%, the pattern property is degraded due to insufficient sensitivity, and if more than 60 wt%, the removal of the binder by burning is insufficient.

The fluorescent paste or photosensitive fluorescent paste consisting of these ingredients is usually prepared by mixing various ingredients such as a fluorescent powder, organic binder, ultraviolet light absorber, photosensitive polymer, photosensitive monomer, photopolymerization initiator, dispersing agent, plasticizer and solvent to achieve a predetermined composition, and homogeneously dispersing the mixture by a three-roller mill or kneader. As other methods, a dispersing agent dissolved in a solvent can be mixed with the other ingredients, or a fluorescent powder treated on the surfaces of its grains by a dispersing agent or ultraviolet light absorber can also be mixed with the other ingredients.

The glass substrate used in the present invention is not especially limited, and a general soda lime glass or a glass obtained by annealing a soda lime glass, or a glass with a high strain point (e.g., "PD-200" produced by Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.), etc. can be used. The size of the glass substrate is not especially limited, and a 1 to 5 mm thick glass can be used.

By forming fluorescent material layers on a glass substrate with electrodes and partitions formed on it, a board for a plasma display can be obtained. A substrate with a dielectric layer formed on it in addition to electrodes and partitions can also be used. The electrodes can be formed by applying silver, aluminum, copper, gold, nickel, tin oxide or

ITO, etc. by screen printing or using a photosensitive conductive paste.

The partitions can be formed as a grid or in stripes, but the present invention is especially effective when the partitions are formed in stripes. It is preferable that the pitch of the partitions is 100 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , and that the height of the partitions is 50 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Examples of forming the fluorescent material layers of the plasma display according to the present invention are described below, but the present invention is not limited thereto or thereby.

#### (1) Coating step

A glass substrate with an electrode layer and a partition layer formed on it (Fig. 1) is coated with fluorescent pastes of respective colors on the spaces formed between the respectively adjacent partitions and predetermined for the respective colors. For coating, the tips of the outlet holes or nozzles or needles of the paste applicator are set above the tops of the partitions with a distance of 0.01 to 2 mm kept between them (Fig. 4), and the paste applicator is driven to travel in parallel to the striped partitions at a constant speed, while the fluorescent pastes are discharged at a constant flow rate onto the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions.

In this case, one paste applicator with one outlet hole or nozzle or needle can be used for discharging any of the three fluorescent pastes of R, G and B, for coating the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions one by one. As a more efficient method, it is preferable to use a paste applicator with two or more outlet holes arranged on one straight line at certain coating intervals for one color, for simultaneously coating two or more spaces formed between adjacent partitions.

As a further more efficient method, two or more paste applicators each for respective colors can also be synchronized or interlocked to be driven for coating the panel on its full face.

If paste applicators with outlet holes or nozzles or needles as described above are used, the fluorescent pastes of respective R, G and B colors can be applied for coating in stripes by turns or simultaneously.

In this case, it is preferable that the paste applicator is kept at a negative pressure till the fluorescent paste is discharged from the outlet holes and/or when the discharge is terminated, and that the negative pressure is -0.1 to -20 kPa. To control the negative pressure, a dispenser, etc. capable of setting a negative pressure can be used.

It is also preferable that as soon as the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate begins to be driven for traveling in parallel to the partitions formed on the glass substrate or

while it travels, the fluorescent paste is discharged, and/or that the discharge is terminated during traveling or after completion of traveling. It is also preferable that the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate is moved perpendicularly to the plane direction. For this purpose, a motor, or a hydraulic or pneumatic mechanism, etc. can be used to vertically move a stage mounted with the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate. In this case, it is more preferable that at a position before start of coating in the direction parallel to the partitions, the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate is moved perpendicularly, to keep the distance between the tops of the partitions and the tips of the outlet holes of the paste applicator in a state ready for coating, and that at a position after end of the coating continued in the direction parallel to the partitions, it is moved perpendicularly to widen the distance more than the state ready for coating. It is preferable that the distance between the tops of the partitions and the tips of the outlet holes of the paste applicator in the state ready for coating is 0.01 to 2 mm, when the paste applicator and/or the glass substrate is driven to travel at a constant speed while the fluorescent paste is discharged at a constant rate for coating the spaces between adjacent partitions. A more preferable range is 0.03 to 1 mm.

It is preferable that the viscosity of the fluorescent pastes used is 0.1 to 50 Pa.s.

It is preferable that the discharge pressure of the fluorescent pastes is 50 to 1000 kPa.

The fluorescent materials of the plasma display must have a thickness of 10 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  on the bottoms of the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions and along the lateral sides (as a thickness at a half-height position of each partition), and the coating thickness must be controlled by controlling the discharged amount of the fluorescent paste by the discharge pressure and the coating speed, considering the shrinkage after drying and burning depending on the fluorescent powder content of each fluorescent paste used.

#### (2) Drying step

Coating is followed by drying. It is preferable to dry at 50 to 200°C for 5 to 60 minutes in a hot air oven or on a hot plate.

#### (3) Burning step

Drying is followed by burning in a burning furnace. The burning atmosphere and temperature depend on the pastes and substrate used. The burning is effected in an atmosphere of air, nitrogen or hydrogen, etc. The burning temperature is 400 to 550°C. The burning furnace used can be a batch burning furnace or a belt type or roller-hearth type continuous burning furnace.

According to the above steps (1) to (3), a rear board for a plasma display panel with fluorescent material layers formed



on the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions on a glass substrate can be produced.

Furthermore, to remove the fluorescent materials formed on the tops of the partitions and other unnecessary portions than the partitions due to coating, photosensitive fluorescent pastes can be used for patterning by photolithography. In this case, the coated substrate is exposed through a photomask, to make the pastes of the exposed portions soluble or insoluble in the developer, for removing the unnecessary portions by development. In this case, the burning step (3) is preceded by exposure step (4) and development step (5).

#### (4) Exposure step

As in ordinary photolithography, it is general to effect mask exposure using a photomask. Either a negative or positive mask is selected, depending on the photosensitive organic component used. As another method, a laser beam, etc. can also be used for direct drawing without using any photomask. As the exposure machine, a stepper exposure machine or proximity exposure machine, etc. can be used.

For exposing a large area, after the substrate such as a glass substrate has been coated with photosensitive pastes, the substrate can be carried forward during exposure, to expose a large area by an exposure machine with a small effective exposure area.

The active light used in this case can be visible light, near ultraviolet light, ultraviolet light, electron beam, X ray or laser beam, etc. Among them, ultraviolet light is preferable. The light source can be, for example, a low pressure mercury lamp, high pressure mercury lamp, extra-high pressure mercury lamp, halogen lamp or germicidal lamp, etc. Among them, an extra-high pressure mercury lamp is suitable.

If a photomask is used, the design of the pattern width is important. Usually, a width equal to the space obtained by subtracting the partition width from the partition pitch is used, but considering the accuracy of alignment and the light scattering at the time of exposure, a photomask with a pattern width more narrow than the space by 0 to 30 mm can also be used.

#### (5) Development step

After completion of exposure, a developer is used for development. In this case, immersion, spray or brushing is used.

The developer can be an organic solvent which allows the organic component in the photosensitive pastes to be dissolved. The organic solvent can also contain water to such an extent that the dissolving power may not be lost. If a compound with an acidic group such as a carboxyl group exists in the photosensitive paste, an alkali aqueous solution can be used for development. The alkali aqueous solution can be an alkali metal aqueous solution such as sodium hydroxide or calcium

hydroxide aqueous solution, but the use of an organic alkali aqueous solution is preferable since the alkali component can be easily removed at the time of burning.

The organic alkali can be an amine compound. The organic alkalis which can be used here include tetramethylammonium hydroxide, trimethylbenzylammonium hydroxide, monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, etc. The concentration of the alkali aqueous solution is usually 0.01 to 10 wt%, preferably 0.1 to 5 wt%. If the alkali concentration is too low, the non-exposed portions cannot be removed, and if too high, the pattern may peel to erode the exposed portions. In view of process control, it is preferable that the development temperature is 20 to 50°C.

In addition to the above steps, a heating step of 50 to 300°C can also be used for drying or preliminary reaction.

If the rear board for a plasma display panel obtained according to the above steps (Fig. 3) is sealed with the glass substrates on the front and rear faces, and a rare gas such as helium, neon or xenon is introduced into the sealed housing, then the panel of a plasma display can be produced. Furthermore, if a driver IC is mounted, a plasma display can be produced.

#### [Examples]

The present invention is described below concretely in reference to examples, but is not limited thereto or thereby.

In the examples, each concentration (%) is wt% unless otherwise stated.

#### Example 1

Fluorescent pastes respectively consisting of 45 g of a fluorescent powder, 23 g of a binder polymer (methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid-styrene copolymer), 30 g of a solvent (  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone) and 2 g of a dispersing agent were prepared. The fluorescent powders used were red (Y, Gd, Eu)BO<sub>3</sub> (cumulative average grain size 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , specific surface area 3.1 m<sup>2</sup>/cc), green (Zn, Mn)<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub> (cumulative average grain size 3.6  $\mu\text{m}$ , specific surface area 2.5 m<sup>2</sup>/cc) and blue (Ba, Eu)MgAl<sub>10</sub>O<sub>17</sub> (cumulative average grain size 3.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , specific surface area 2.3 m<sup>2</sup>/cc). At first the respective organic ingredients were dissolved by heating at 60°C, and then a fluorescent powder was added. The mixture was kneaded by a kneader, to prepare a paste. The respective pastes were 7 Pa·s in viscosity.

A glass substrate with nine hundred and sixty one 150  $\mu\text{m}$  high 60  $\mu\text{m}$  wide partitions formed at a pitch of 220  $\mu\text{m}$  on it was coated with the respective pastes of red, green and blue in stripes.

For coating, paste applicators respectively having five 3 mm long needles with an inner diameter of 150  $\mu\text{m}$  pressed in at the tip at a pitch of 660  $\mu\text{m}$  in one line (L/D = 20) were used. One paste applicator each was used for the fluorescent pastes

of red, blue and green. The distance between the tips of the needles and the tops of the partitions was set at 80  $\mu\text{m}$ . The discharge pressure was set at 300 kPa by a dispenser. The paste applicators were driven to travel at a constant speed of 20 mm/s in parallel to the partitions, while the fluorescent pastes were discharged at a constant rate for coating five spaces between adjacent partitions respectively simultaneously. At first, the red fluorescent paste was applied to predetermined five spaces between adjacent partitions simultaneously.

In this case, the paste applicator was internally kept at a negative pressure (-1 kPa) after the paste applicator was moved to the coating start position of the partitions till the discharge pressure was applied. Furthermore, when the discharge pressure was released with the paste applicator reaching the coating end position of the partitions, the paste applicator was kept again at a negative pressure (-1 kPa). The discharge pressure was applied as soon as the paste applicator started traveling and released when the traveling was completed.

At the position where the coating of five spaces was completed, the paste applicator was moved in the direction perpendicular to the partitions by 3300  $\mu\text{m}$ . Then, it was driven to travel similarly in the reverse direction for coating five spaces between adjacent partitions. This was repeated to coat predetermined 320 spaces with the red fluorescent material.

After completion of coating with the red fluorescent material, it was dried at 80°C for 40 minutes with the coated side turned upward. Then, the blue fluorescent paste was similarly applied to the 320 spaces adjacent to those coated with the red fluorescent paste and dried. Furthermore, the green fluorescent paste was similarly applied to the 320 spaces adjacent to those coated with the blue fluorescent paste and dried. The obtained glass substrate was burned at 500°C for 30 minutes.

The mixing of the fluorescent material layers in the partitions due to the overflow of the fluorescent pastes at both the edges in the direction parallel to the partitions did not occur. The thicknesses of the fluorescent material layers formed along the lateral sides and on the bottoms of the spaces were observed by an electron microscope. It was found that the fluorescent materials of the respective colors were formed with a thickness of  $20 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$  along the lateral sides and with a thickness of  $20 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$  on the bottoms of the spaces in stripes.

#### Example 2

Fluorescent pastes respectively consisting of 20 g of a fluorescent powder, 5 g of a binder polymer (ethyl cellulose) and 75 g of a solvent (terpineol) were prepared. The fluorescent powders used were the same red  $(\text{Y}, \text{Gd}, \text{Eu})\text{BO}_3$ , green  $(\text{Zn}, \text{Mn})_2\text{SiO}_4$  and blue  $(\text{Ba}, \text{Eu})\text{MgAl}_{10}\text{O}_{17}$  as used in Example 1. At first the respective organic ingredients were dissolved by

heating at 60°C, and then a fluorescent powder was added. The mixture was kneaded by a kneader, to prepare a paste. The respective pastes were 25 Pa·s in viscosity.

A glass substrate with nine hundred and sixty one 150  $\mu\text{m}$  high 60  $\mu\text{m}$  wide partitions formed at a pitch of 430  $\mu\text{m}$  on it was coated with the respective pastes of red, green and blue in stripes.

For coating, paste applicators respectively having twenty 3 mm long needles with an inner diameter of 300  $\mu\text{m}$  pressed in at the tip at a pitch of 1290  $\mu\text{m}$  in one line ( $L/D = 10$ ) were used. One paste applicator each was used for the fluorescent pastes of red, blue and green. The distance between the tips of the needles and the tops of the partitions was set at 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . The discharge pressure was set at 200 kPa by a dispenser. The paste applicators were driven to travel at a constant speed of 15 mm/s in parallel to the partitions, while the fluorescent pastes were discharged at a constant rate for coating twenty spaces between adjacent partitions respectively simultaneously. At first, the red fluorescent paste was applied to predetermined twenty spaces between adjacent partitions simultaneously.

In this case, the paste applicator was moved to a position where the outlet holes were 20 mm before the coating start position in the direction parallel to the partitions. The paste applicator was driven to travel, and as soon as the outlet holes

of the paste applicator reached the coating start position of the partitions, the discharge pressure was applied. As soon as the outlet holes of the paste applicator reached the coating end position, the discharge pressure was released. The paste applicator was stopped at a position where the outlet holes passed the coating end position by 20 mm in the direction parallel to the partitions.

At the position where the coating of twenty spaces was completed, the paste applicator was moved in the direction perpendicular to the partitions by 25.8 mm. Then, it was driven to travel similarly in the reverse direction for coating twenty spaces between adjacent partitions. This was repeated to coat predetermined 320 spaces with the red fluorescent material. After completion of coating with the red fluorescent material, it was dried at 80°C for 40 minutes with the coated side turned upward. Then, the blue fluorescent paste was similarly applied to the 320 spaces adjacent to those coated with the red fluorescent paste and dried. Furthermore, the green fluorescent paste was similarly applied to the 320 spaces adjacent to those coated with the blue fluorescent paste and dried. The obtained glass substrate was burned at 400°C for 30 minutes.

The mixing of the fluorescent material layers in the partitions due to the overflow of the fluorescent pastes at both the edges in the direction parallel to the partitions did not



occur. The thicknesses of the fluorescent material layers formed along the lateral sides and on the bottoms of the spaces were observed by an electron microscope. It was found that the fluorescent materials of the respective colors were formed with a thickness of  $20 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$  along the lateral sides and with a thickness of  $20 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$  on the bottoms of the spaces in stripes.

### Example 3

Fluorescent pastes respectively consisting of 45 g of a fluorescent powder, 20 g of a binder polymer (polyvinyl alcohol), 33 g of a solvent (water) and 2 g of a dispersing agent were prepared. The fluorescent powders used were the same red (Y, Gd, Eu) $\text{BO}_3$ , green  $(\text{Zn}, \text{Mn})_2\text{SiO}_4$  and blue  $(\text{Ba}, \text{Eu})\text{MgAl}_{10}\text{O}_{17}$  as used in Example 1. At first the respective organic ingredients were dissolved by heating at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ , and then a fluorescent powder was added. The mixture was kneaded by a kneader, to prepare a paste. The respective pastes were 25 Pa·s in viscosity.

A glass substrate with nine hundred and sixty one  $150 \mu\text{m}$  high  $60 \mu\text{m}$  wide partitions formed at a pitch of  $220 \mu\text{m}$  on it was coated with the respective pastes of red, green and blue in stripes.

For coating, paste applicators respectively having five 3 mm needles with an inner diameter of  $150 \mu\text{m}$  pressed in at the tip at a pitch of  $660 \mu\text{m}$  in one line ( $L/D = 20$ ) were used. Four paste applicators each were used for the fluorescent pastes of red, blue and green. Four paste applicators with nozzles were

arranged every 52.8 mm in the direction perpendicular to the partitions, and synchronized to be driven for traveling simultaneously at the same speed in the same direction. The distance between the tips of the nozzles and the tops of the partitions was set at 80  $\mu\text{m}$ . The discharge pressure was set at 400 kPa by a dispenser. The paste applicators were driven to travel at a constant speed of 15 mm/s in parallel to the partitions, while the fluorescent pastes were discharged at a constant rate for coating twenty spaces between adjacent partitions respectively simultaneously. At first, the red fluorescent paste was applied to predetermined twenty spaces between adjacent partitions simultaneously.

In this case, before the paste applicators were moved to the coating start position of the partitions, the distance between the tips of the nozzles of the past applicator and the tops of the partitions was kept at 5 mm, and as soon as the paste applicators reached the coating start position, the distance was changed to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ . At the moment when the distance was changed, the paste applicators were driven to travel. When the nozzles of the paste applicators reached the coating end position, the traveling of the paste applicators was terminated, and at the same time, the distance between the tips of the nozzles of the past applicators and the tops of the partitions was changed to 5 mm. The distance between the tips of the nozzles of the paste applicator and the tops of the partitions was

changed by vertically moving a stage mounted with the glass substrate in Z axis direction.

The discharge pressure was applied as soon as the paste applicators started traveling, and released as soon as the traveling was terminated.

At the position where the coating of twenty spaces was completed, the four paste applicators were moved in the direction perpendicular to the partitions by 3300  $\mu\text{m}$  respectively. Then, they were driven to travel similarly in the reverse direction for coating twenty spaces between adjacent partitions. This was repeated to coat predetermined 320 spaces with the red fluorescent material. After completion of coating with the red fluorescent material, it was dried at 80°C for 40 minutes with the coated side turned upward. Then, the blue fluorescent paste was similarly applied to the 320 spaces adjacent to those coated with the red fluorescent paste and dried. Furthermore, the green fluorescent paste was similarly applied to the 320 spaces adjacent to those coated with the blue fluorescent paste and dried. The obtained glass substrate was burned at 500°C for 30 minutes.

The mixing of the fluorescent material layers in the partitions due to the overflow of the fluorescent pastes at both the edges in the direction parallel to the partitions did not occur. The thicknesses of the fluorescent material layers formed along the lateral sides and on the bottoms of the spaces

were observed by an electron microscope. It was found that the fluorescent materials of the respective colors were formed with a thickness of  $20 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$  along the lateral sides and with a thickness of  $20 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$  on the bottoms of the spaces in stripes.

[Effects of the invention]

The present invention allows fluorescent material layers of a plasma display to be formed simply and easily. Furthermore, fluorescent material layers suitable for a highly precise plasma display can be formed.

[Brief description of the drawings]

[Fig. 1] A typical view showing a glass substrate with partitions formed on it, used in the present invention.

[Fig. 2] A typical view showing a plasma display panel coated with fluorescent material layers according to the method of the present invention.

[Fig. 3] A typical view showing a burned plasma display panel of the present invention.

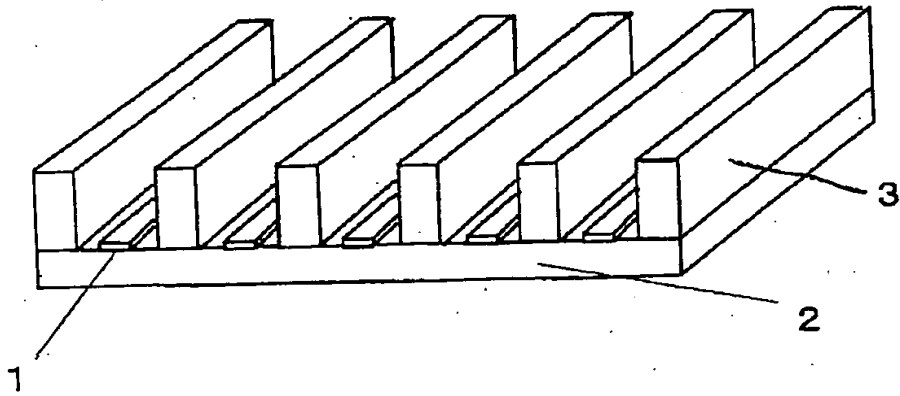
[Fig. 4] A drawing typically showing an example of the method of the present invention applied to a glass substrate with partitions formed.

[Meanings of symbols]

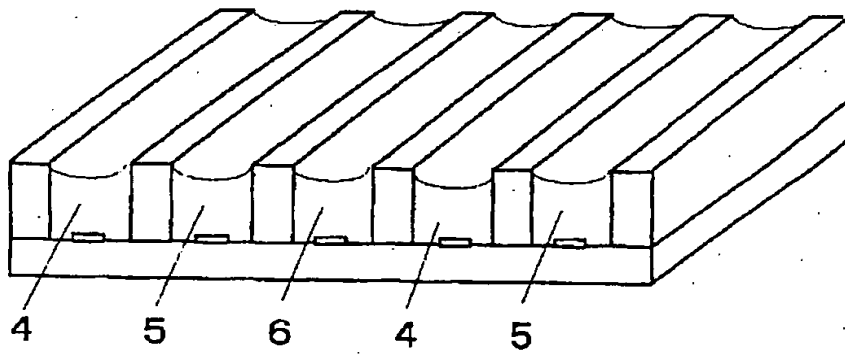
- 1 : electrode
- 2 : glass substrate
- 3 : partition
- 4 : red fluorescent material layer

- 5 : blue fluorescent material layer
- 6 : green fluorescent material layer
- 7 : needle
- 8 : fluorescent paste
- 9 : distance between tip of outlet hole and top of partition

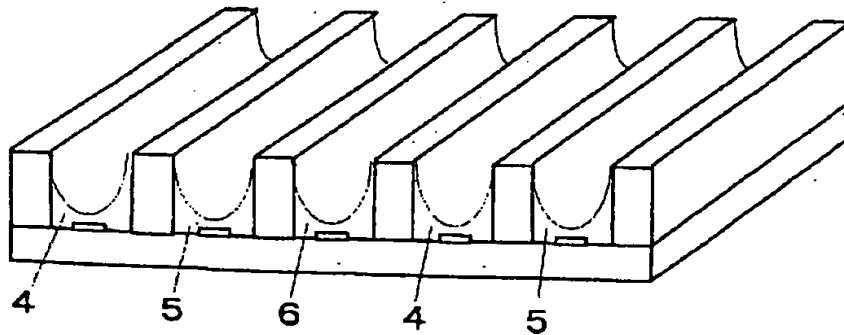
【Fig. 1】



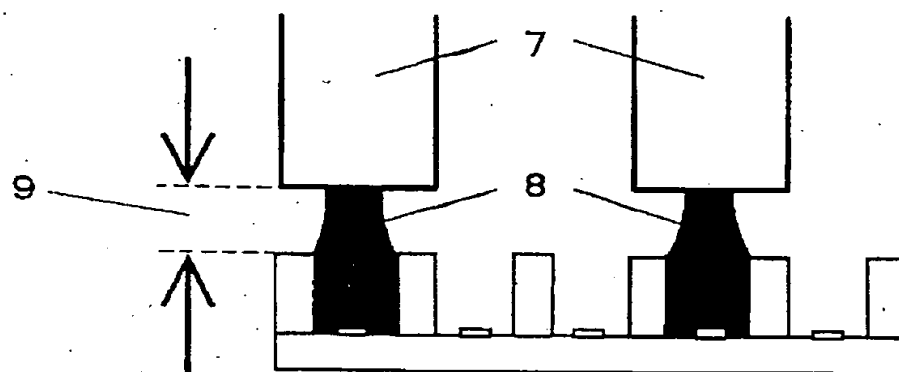
【Fig. 2】



【Fig. 3】



【Fig. 4】



[Title of the document] Abstract

[Abstract]

[problem] To provide a method for producing a plasma display which allows fluorescent material layers to be simply formed.

[Solving means] Three fluorescent pastes respectively containing any of red, green and blue fluorescent powders are applied to the spaces between the respectively adjacent partitions predetermined for the respective colors on a glass substrate, and burned to form fluorescent material layers. In this case, the object can be achieved by a method of producing a plasma display panel, characterized in that a paste applicator with outlet holes or nozzles or needles is used for coating.

[Selected drawing] Nil